WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A tape storage emulation method comprising the steps of:

providing response data corresponding to a tape storage device;

receiving a non-media command from a server;

sending said response data to said server in response to said non-media command;

receiving a media command from said server; and

applying said media command to a virtual tape volume configured on a disk storage device.

2.   The tape storage emulation method according to claim 1 wherein said providing step comprises the substep of accepting user defined configuration settings.

3.   The tape storage emulation method according to claim 1 wherein said providing step comprises the substeps of:

attaching a tape storage device to a controller;

sending a plurality of common nonmedia commands from said controller to said tape storage device during an initialization sequence; and

capturing at least a portion of said response data from said tape storage device in response to said common nonmedia commands.

4.   The tape storage emulation method according to claim 3 wherein said receiving step comprises the substeps of:

determining said non-media command is not one of said common non-media commands;

sending said non-media command to said tape storage device;

capturing a further portion of said response data from said tape storage device in response to said non-media command.

5.   The tape storage emulation method according to claim 1 wherein said sending step comprises the substep of recalling said response data from a personality table.

6.   A tape storage emulator comprising:

a server interface adapted to communicate with a server;

a data path adapted to communicate with a random access data storage;

a personality logic configured to provide response data corresponding to a sequential access data storage;

a virtual tape manager configured to store virtual tape data on said random access data storage,

said virtual tape manager responsive to a media command so as to transfer said virtual tape data between said random access data storage and said server,

said personality logic responsive to a non-media command so as to transfer said response data to said server.

7.   The tape storage emulator according to claim 6 wherein:

said data path is further adapted to communicate with said sequential access data storage, and

said personality logic is configured to capture said response data from said sequential access data storage.

8.   The tape storage emulator according to claim 7 further comprising:

a personality table storing a static data portion of said response data and a dynamic data portion of said response data,

said static data initialized by responses of said sequential access data storage to inquiry and read block limit commands, and

said dynamic data maintained in response to mode select and log select commands received from said server.

9.   The tape storage emulator according to claim 8 wherein said personality logic is configured to accept user inputs defining said response data.

10.   A tape storage emulation method comprising the steps of:

providing a virtual tape controller adapted to communicate with a server, a disk storage and a tape storage;

receiving a non-media command from said server;

retrieving stored response data corresponding to said non-media command; and

responding to said non-media command with said stored response data so that said virtual tape controller appears to said server as said tape storage.

11.   The tape storage emulation method according to claim 10 comprising the further steps of:

attaching said tape device to said virtual tape controller;

passing said non-media command thru to said tape device;

receiving response data from said tape device responsive to said non-media command; and

capturing said response data as said stored response data.

12.   The tape storage emulation method according to claim 10 comprising the further steps of:

attaching said tape device to said virtual tape controller;

generating an initial non-media command at said virtual tape controller so as to obtain a snap-shot response from said tape device; and

maintaining said snap-shot response as said stored response data.

13.   The tape storage emulation method according to claim 10 comprising the further steps of:

receiving a media command configured for said tape storage from said server; and

adapting said media command to said disk storage.

14.   The tape storage emulation method according to claim 13 comprising the further step of transferring data between a virtual tape volume maintained on said disk storage and said server in response to said media command.